

Kent County Gastrointestinal (GI) Surveillance Trends

Week 03/06/2016 to 03/12/2016

During the week ending March 12th, 2016, overall GI illness activity in Kent County decreased compared to the previous week and was lower than what is typically seen during this time of year. Details of GI illness activity indicators (represented graphically in **Figures 1, 2, 3, and 4**) are listed below.

- **Gastrointestinal %** - The weekly average percentage of emergency department visits for gastrointestinal complaints (including chief complaints of nausea, diarrhea, and vomiting, as well as those related to Crohn's disease, diverticulitis, and appendicitis) decreased from 13.4% to 12.3%. This percentage is lower than what was seen last year (15.3%), and lower than the average over the past four seasons (Figure 2).
- **Gastrointestinal % by age** - Emergency department visits for gastrointestinal complaints in children 0-17 years of age decreased from 2.9% to 2.7% of all emergency department visits for this week. Visits for GI complaints in adults 18 years of age and older decreased from 10.5% to 9.7% of all ED visits. The current percentages are both lower than what was seen in children (4.0%) and adults (11.3%) at this time last year.
- **Gastrointestinal % by gender** – Emergency department visits for GI complaints in females are consistently higher than those for males. The percentage of GI complaints for females decreased from 8.9% to 8.5%. GI complaints for males decreased from 4.5% to 3.9%. In comparison with last year at this time, these percentages are lower among both females (10.1%) and males (5.5%).
- **School GI %** - The percentage of students absent from school due to gastrointestinal illness increased from 1.09% to 1.11%, which was lower than what was seen during the same week last year (1.44%).

Figure 1. Gastrointestinal Complaints as a Percentage of Total Emergency Department Visits, Kent County 08/30/2014 through 03/12/2016.

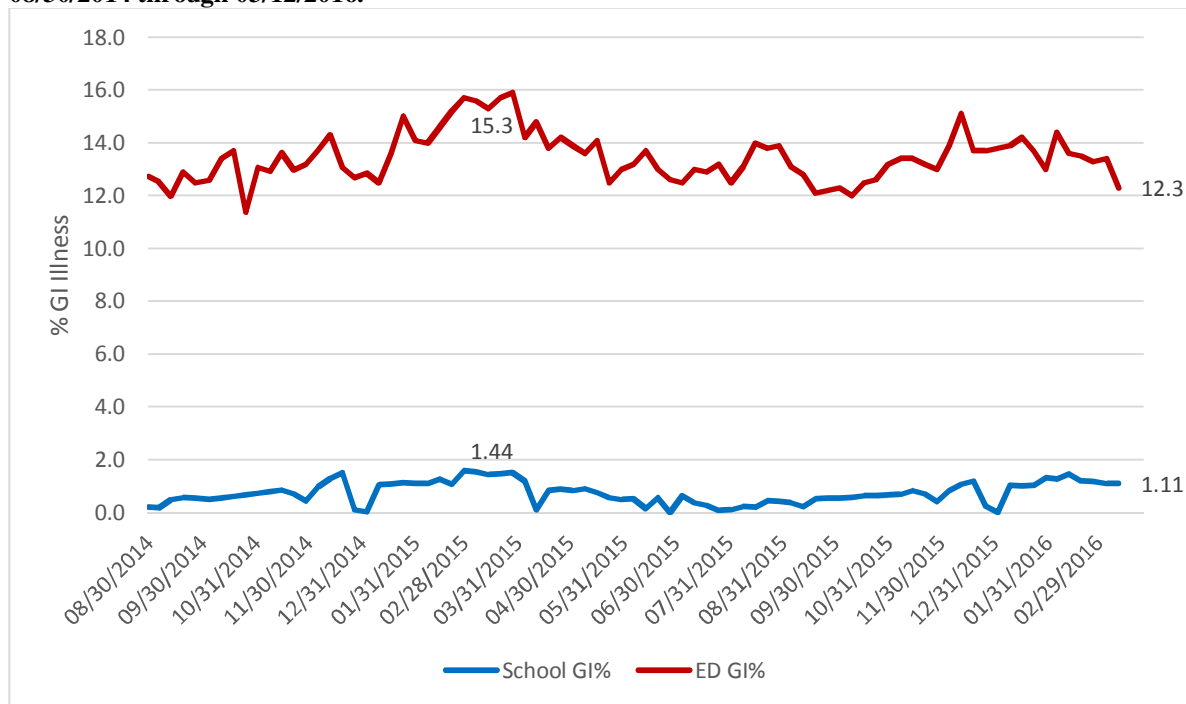


Figure 2. Comparison of current Gastrointestinal Activity to the Average over the Past 4 Years

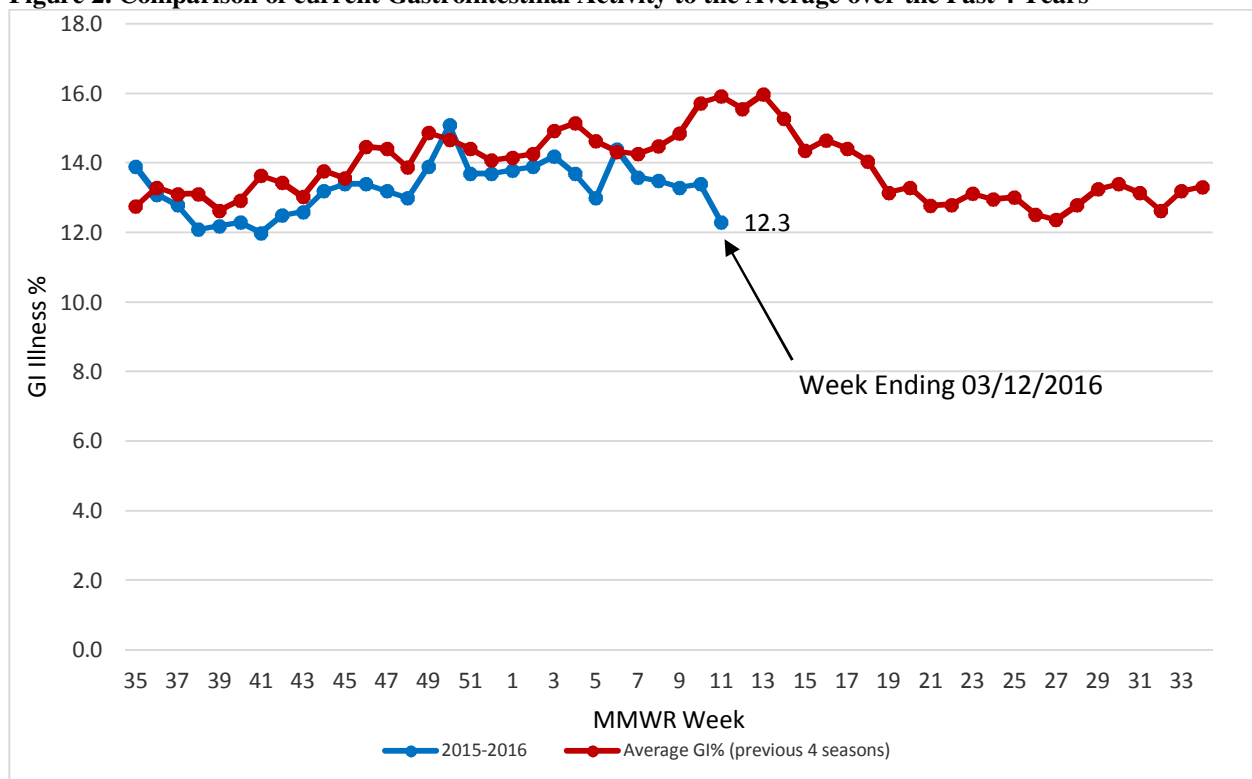


Figure 3. Gastrointestinal Complaints as a Percentage of Total Emergency Department Visits by Age Group, Kent County 08/30/2014 through 03/12/2016.

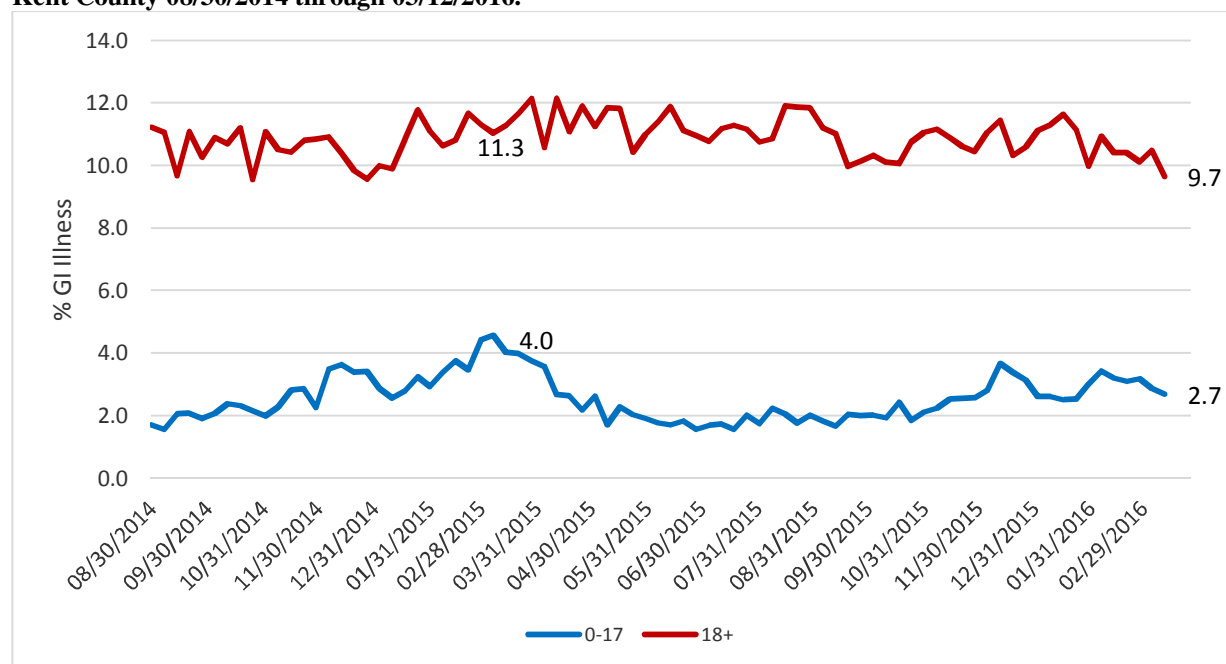


Figure 4: Gastrointestinal Complaints as a Percentage of Total Emergency Department Visits by Gender, Kent County 08/30/2014 through 03/12/2016.

